



**Navy Environmental Restoration
Program Update
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration (NASA) Crows Landing
Flight Facility
[Former Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, Crows
Landing]**

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide an update on the status of the Navy's environmental restoration program projects at the NASA Crows Landing Flight Facility (the Facility), formerly known as the Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF), Crows Landing in Stanislaus County, California. The Facility is located approximately 80 miles southeast of San Francisco, between the towns of Patterson and Crows Landing as shown on Figure 1. Seventeen (17) Underground Storage Tank (UST) sites and eight (8) Installation Restoration Program (IRP) sites have been investigated and/or remediated. Figures 2 and 3 show the locations of IRP and UST sites.

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program:

Seventeen (17) USTs were located at the Facility and all USTs were removed by 1994. Tanks were used for storage of jet fuel, aviation gasoline, or heating oil. Releases of petroleum hydrocarbons to groundwater have been identified at three areas: UST Cluster 1 (aviation fuel storage), UST 117 (gasoline storage), and UST Cluster 2 (aviation fuel storage). The seventeen former underground storage tank sites comprise approximately 6 acres of the Facility.

Corrective actions are in progress at nine UST sites: UST Cluster 1 (Tanks CL-1, CL-2, and CL-3), UST CL-40, UST Cluster 2 (Tanks CL-7, CL-8, and CL-9), UST 109, and UST 117. Portable soil vapor extraction (SVE) treatment units are removing petroleum from the soil at UST Cluster 1, the former location of three aviation gasoline and jet fuel storage tanks, near the east-central section of the Facility. Thousands of pounds of petroleum have been removed from the soil at UST Cluster 1 during 2000 and 2001.

The releases to soil at UST Cluster 1 and UST 117 are being managed under the petroleum corrective action program. The groundwater beneath UST Cluster 1 and UST 117 is impacted with petroleum hydrocarbons and solvents, and the groundwater plume is being managed under the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) for Site 17.

Testing and/or monitoring activities are in progress or will be conducted during the year 2001 at UST 109, UST 117, UST CL-40, and UST Cluster 2.

Installation Restoration Program:

Feasibility studies are being developed for two of the IRP sites: Site 11 (disposal pits and sewer systems) and Site 17 (demolished hangar area and Administration Area Plume). The feasibility studies will include an evaluation of alternatives for the remediation of each site.

Site 11 (former disposal pits) is located near the center of the Facility, between the two runways. The Site 11 investigation boundary comprises an area of approximately 15 acres. The former disposal pits were believed to have been used from the 1960's to the 1980's for the disposal of facility refuse including office trash, kitchen waste, scrap metal, and empty paint and pesticide containers. Pits were excavated at the site, refuse was placed in the pits and was burned. Additionally, ordnance material from the practice bombing ranges located in the hills west of the Facility was burned and disposed of. Geophysical surveys and exploratory trenching activities were conducted during late 2000 and early 2001 in order to better define the boundaries of the former disposal pits.

The Site 11A (sewer systems) includes two former sewage treatment plants, one located near the east-central section of the Facility that was constructed in approximately 1943 and one located near the northern boundary of the Facility that was constructed in the early 1950's. Geophysical surveys were conducted in November 2000, and exploratory trenching activities were conducted in May 2001 at the original sewage treatment plant in order to better define the locations of the original sewer pipeline, the septic tanks, and the oxidation ponds.

Site 17 includes the demolished hangar area, where former aircraft maintenance hangars were located, and the groundwater plume that is also known as the Administration Area Plume, a commingled plume consisting of petroleum hydrocarbons and solvents. The primary sources of petroleum hydrocarbons in groundwater are former petroleum storage tanks at UST Cluster 1 and

UST 117. The hangars and most of the other structures in the Site 17 vicinity were removed many years ago. The groundwater plume is approximately 70 acres in size, and carbon tetrachloride, other solvents, 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA (an additive in gasoline)), and gasoline have been identified near the former hangar area. Groundwater extraction, injection, and air sparging pilot tests were conducted at Site 17 during the period from 1997 through 1999.

A time-critical removal action was initiated in December 2000 to remove contamination from a source area near a former dry well at the southern edge of the plume. Acetone, ethylene dibromide (EDB), tert butyl alcohol (TBA), methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), other solvents, and aviation gasoline were identified in this area, and more than 50 pounds of petroleum and solvents have been extracted as of May 2001.

Groundwater monitoring activities at Site 17, UST Cluster 2, and other sites will be conducted on a quarterly basis during 2001.

Six (6) of the sites: Sites 10 (Rubble Disposal Area), 12 (Auto Maintenance Shop Area), 13 (Transformer Spill Area), 14 (Fire Training Area), 16 (Pesticide Rinse Area), and 18 (Firing Range) were addressed in a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan (ROD/RAP) that was signed in 1999. The ROD/RAP states that risks associated with these sites have been evaluated and found to be within the risk range considered to be generally allowable, and the ROD/RAP identifies no further actions as the final remedy for these sites.

Historical Background

The former NALF Crows Landing was commissioned in May 1943 and has served primarily as an auxiliary airfield for operations from Naval Air Station, Moffett Field. The Facility also provided service to other Navy facilities in the general area and other federal and state agencies. The Navy closed the Facility in 1994 in accordance with the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act. Operation and ownership of the facility were transferred to NASA on July 1, 1994. In October 1999, NASA was authorized by legislative act of the 106th Congress of the United States of America to transfer the facility to Stanislaus County. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, including a reuse plan, was released by Stanislaus County for public review in January 2001.

The Navy is responsible for the restoration of contaminated sites that were the result of historical Navy operations at the Facility. The Navy is the lead agency for the implementation of the environmental restoration program,

and regulatory oversight is provided by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Navy will provide periodic updates to the community in fact sheets, and the most current project correspondence, plans, reports, and other documents are available at the local information repository at the Patterson Branch Library for inspection by the public. If you have comments or questions, please send them to Ms. Marianna Potacka, Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92132-5190.

Environmental Restoration Program Mailing List Update Form

To better serve the community regarding the Navy's Environmental Restoration Program projects at the NASA Crows Landing Flight Facility, we are continuing to update our mailing list. If you would like to receive copies of fact sheets and proposed plans, please complete the form and return to the following address:

Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
BRAC Programs
Code 06CC.LMH (Lynn Marie Hornecker)
1220 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California 92132-5190

Or Fax the form to Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command at (619) 532-0780.

Mailing Box – Please provide all information:

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State and Zip Code: _____

Telephone (optional): _____

E-mail (optional): _____

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MAILING LABEL

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information pertaining to specific projects, please contact

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Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Administrative Record documents are available at the Information Repository at the Stanislaus County Library, Patterson Branch in Patterson. The Information Repository also includes an index of all documents contained within the CERCLA Administrative Record. Remedial investigation reports, underground storage tank reports, and other documentation pertaining to the Navy's environmental restoration program are maintained in the CERCLA Administrative Record at Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command in San Diego. For assistance with the CERCLA Administrative Record or requests for copies of documents contained within the CERCLA Administrative Record, please contact the records manager, Ms. Diane Silva, at (619) 532-3676.